

Under The Sierra Moon

Screenplay by

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**"And like the moon, we must go through phases of emptiness to
feel full again."**

-Ambivert

FADE IN:

EXT. BALCONY-CASTLE-NIGHT

A young man swings from a **rope** and drops to the floor. HERO, early 20s.

He swings his **sword** at PIRATE #1 and #2.

PIRATE CAPTAIN, early 30s.

The Pirate Captain lifts a woman over his shoulder and runs. DAMSEL, late teens.

DAMSEL

Help!!

SIERRA (V.O.)

The hero rushes to the damsel's rescue!

The Hero swings from a rope and jumps towards the Pirate Captain. He grabs the Damsel and swings in the opposite direction.

SIERRA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

All that's left is to fight.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-DAY

A woman stands in the midst of the classroom. SIERRA, 18. A writing major student. Kind, gentle but naive at times.

A gray-haired bearded man sits at his desk. PROFESSOR ROBERTS, 55. English professor. A widowed and strict man that wants to see a person's true potential.

SIERRA

Their swashbuckling fight escalates at the edge of the dock.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS

Cut! Stop!!

Sierra looks at Professor Roberts with a confused look on her face.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)

What are you trying to tell me here!

SIERRA

I -- I'm sorry -- I'm --

PROFESSOR ROBERTS

Where are you trying to take me?
The characters sound unbelievable
and rushed.

SIERRA

I'm being original.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS

This sounds like mommy porn!

Professor Roberts stands up. He steps towards the STUDENTS.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)

This is the prime example of what
people are trying to sell me.

He looks at Sierra. He tosses her an **apple**.

Sierra catches it.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)

There's your big climax!

STUDENTS

(laugh)

Sierra steps towards her desk. She grabs her **backpack** and
steps up the stairs.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

In a stall, Sierra sits on a toilet.

SIERRA

(cry)

(sob)

Sierra wipes her eyes.

A knock on the stall door.

A woman leans her arm on the door. ERIN, 18. A writing major
student. A hardworking, and humble woman.

ERIN

Come out, Sierra! Don't let that
asshole get to you.

SIERRA (O.S.)
(sob)

Sierra opens the door and steps out of the stall.

Erin steps towards the sink.

Sierra steps towards the sink. She washes her face.

Erin grabs a **paper towel** and hands it to Sierra.

Sierra takes it and wipes her face.

Erin wraps her arm around Sierra's back --

ERIN
Come out with me tonight.

Sierra rolls the paper towel into a ball and tosses it into the **trash can**.

SIERRA
Aren't you working tonight?

ERIN
Shit, your right. I'll call in.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARK-DAY

At a **picnic table**, Sierra sits and writes in her **journal**.

Erin sits across from her, watching her write.

ERIN
(laugh)
Are you seriously going to write
all day?

SIERRA
Practice makes perfect.

ERIN
I believe they mean that with
drawing.

Erin closes the journal with her hand.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Can you consider going out with me?

SIERRA

Why?

ERIN

Because you could use it.

Sierra grabs her journal and puts it into her backpack.

SIERRA

Okay.

ERIN

Okay?

SIERRA

Yeah, I didn't stutter.

Sierra stands up.

ERIN

Wear something sexy.

Sierra steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra stands in front of the *mirror*.

MONTAGE

-- Sierra puts on mascara.

-- Sierra puts on blush.

-- Sierra puts on lipstick.

BACK TO SCENE

Sierra ties the *strings* to a *white blouse*.

She looks at herself.

SIERRA

Wow!

A knock on the door.

ERIN

Can I come in now?

The door opens.

Erin steps towards Sierra.

ERIN (CONT'D)
What!

SIERRA
What?

ERIN
You just are --

SIERRA
Is that a good thing?

ERIN
The frat boys are going to call the
fire department.

SIERRA
Isn't that a bad thing?

ERIN
For them.

Erin steps towards the door.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Let's go.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIK FRAT HOUSE-NIGHT

Sierra looks at the name of the frat house.

SIERRA
Seriously!

ERIN
What! We love them, don't we?

SIERRA
I'm too young to understand that
statement.

Sierra steps towards the door.

The door opens.

FRAT BOY #1, #2 and #3. Late teens.

FRAT BOY #1
Ladies, welcome!

FRAT GIRL, late teens.

Frat Girl jumps onto Frat Boy #2's back.

FRAT GIRL
Yeah, bitches!!

SIERRA
I'm already regretting this.

Frat Boy #1 hands Sierra a **solo cup**.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Thanks.

FRAT BOY #2
Come and join the party ladies!!

Erin steps towards the door.

SIERRA
What's in it?

FRAT BOY #2
A special mix.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-NIGHT

Sierra sits on the bed and lays back.

Frat Boy #1 kisses her.

Across the bedroom, a man sits. RICK, 20. A deceased frat boy with unfinished business.

SIERRA'S POV:

Rick steps forward. His face leans forward.

RICK
(yell)

BACK TO SCENE

SIERRA
(scream)

Sierra falls to the floor. She gets up and rushes to the door.

FRAT BOY #1
What did I do!!

Sierra pulls the door open.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM/SHOWER AREA-NIGHT

Sierra pushes the door closed. She locks it. Her eyes look back at her face in the mirror.

SIERRA
Get a hold of yourself, Sierra!

Sierra closes her eyes. She opens them.

RICK
Hello!!

SIERRA
(scream)

Sierra falls back to the **bathtub**. She hits the back of her head on the edge.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Ugh!

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

Sierra's eyes open.

DOCTOR, early 20s.

DOCTOR
What's your name?

SIERRA
Sierra.

A woman sits alongside of Sierra. FAITH, 28. An artist. A kindhearted and humble woman.

FAITH
What's my name?

SIERRA
Faith! Where did you come from?

FAITH
The head office called me. They
told me that they found you knocked
out.

SIERRA
What about the man?

FAITH
What man?

SIERRA
The man in the vacation clothes.

FAITH
There was no man.

Faith touches Sierra's face.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Are you feeling alright?

Sierra pushes herself off the bed.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Hold on!

SIERRA
I got to get back to the dorm.

Sierra steps towards the door. She opens it.

Faith steps past the Doctor.

FAITH
Thank you, Doctor.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. FAITH'S CAR-NIGHT

The car stops at the curb.

Sierra unbuckles the **seatbelt**.

SIERRA
Thanks for the ride.

Sierra opens the door.

FAITH
Hold on! Shut the door.

Sierra shuts the door.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Do you really think it's helping
him. You not calling! That it's
helping!

Sierra's eyes water.

FAITH (CONT'D)
He's hurting right now.

Sierra looks away.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Look at me!

Sierra looks at Faith.

Faith wipes the tears from Sierra's face.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Be safe. I love you.

Faith kisses Sierra on the cheek.

Sierra opens the door. She stands up.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Oh! Dad wanted you to have this.

Faith hands her a **photo album**.

Sierra takes it.

FAITH (CONT'D)
He figured you could use it for
inspiration.

SIERRA
Tell him thank you and I love him.

FAITH
I will. You should tell him
yourself.

Sierra shuts the door.

SIERRA
Love you.

Sierra turns around and walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra steps into the dorm room. She sits on the bed.

SIERRA
Let's check it out dad!

Sierra flips through the pages of photos.

The door opens.

Erin backs into the dorm room. She falls back onto her bed.

Frat Boy #2 steps towards Erin.

Sierra closes the photo album and pushes it back towards the wall.

It falls to the floor, underneath the bed.

Frat Boy #2 gets on top of Erin.

Sierra lays her head down on the pillow. She covers herself with her **blanket**.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(whisper)
Good night.

Sierra closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

Sierra steps into the bathroom. She looks at herself in the mirror. Her eyes look away. Sierra looks at herself in the mirror again.

SIERRA
Come on! Where are you!

Erin steps in. She looks at Sierra with concern.

ERIN
I'm right here.

Erin brushes her teeth.

ERIN (CONT'D)
How's your head?

SIERRA
It's fine, thanks.

ERIN
Are you going to shower?

SIERRA
No.

ERIN
Sierra, not take a shower! This
isn't right.

Sierra opens the door and looks at Erin.

SIERRA
It's good to change.

Sierra steps out of the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP-DAY

Sierra steps towards a table. She sets a ***paper cup*** down.

RICK (V.O.)
Hello.

Sierra's eyes wander.

SIERRA
Where are you?

RICK (V.O.)
Turn around!

Sierra looks back.

BARISTA, early 20s.

Sierra's eyes follow the Barista.

RICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
(laugh)
Got you!

SIERRA
What do you want?

RICK (V.O.)
Just sit there and drink your
coffee.

Sierra takes a sip.

RICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Hold up!

SIERRA
(scream)

Sierra gets a jump scare, splashing coffee in her face.

RICK (V.O.)
(laugh)

SIERRA
Prick!!

Sierra wipes her face off with a **napkin**.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
What do you want!!!

CUSTOMERS look at Sierra.

Sierra looks at the Customers.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(laugh)
Just practicing my lines. A little
drama class you know!

Sierra grabs the cup from the table and stands up.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Piss off!!

Sierra rushes through the doors.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-DAY

Sierra's face leaned against the desk; sound asleep.

Professor Roberts steps towards Sierra. He slams his hand
down on the desk.

SIERRA
(scream)

PROFESSOR ROBERTS

There she was, like the Sierra mountains, like the beautiful mountains in the North. No man could conquer her or them. Not even evil itself. No rope, no man.

Sierra looks at him, feeling puzzled.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Simple story telling. All it takes is a little inspiration, Ms. Smith.

Sierra grabs her backpack and stands up.

Professor Roberts steps down the stairs.

Sierra steps up the stairs.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD-DAY

Sierra runs the **track**, running while listening to music. "Thnks Fr Th Mmrs" by Fall Out Boy plays.

Sierra wipes her forehead.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM/SHOWER AREA-NIGHT

Underneath the **shower head**, Sierra wets her face. She brushes the water through her hair.

SIERRA
(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra lies down on her bed. She stares up at the ceiling.

Erin looks up from her study book and glances at Sierra.

ERIN
How are you feeling?

SIERRA
Would you believe me if I told you?

ERIN
Depends. Is it about one of the
frat boys?

SIERRA
No.

ERIN
Then I don't want to know.

SIERRA
Do you ever feel like there's
something talking to you?

ERIN
Yeah, my mom! Asking me to do my
best.

Sierra turns to her left side, facing the wall.

SIERRA
Never mind.

Sierra switches off her lamp.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Good night.

ERIN
Night. Don't let the bed bug's
bite.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-DAY (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sierra sits at her desk. Her fingers hit the keys on the
keyboard of her laptop.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Like no other woman she is, men
tried to conquer her like the moon
or Mount Everest. All she wanted
was to be appreciated and loved.

RICK (O.C.)
(laugh)

SIERRA
Shut up, prick!

Sierra continues to type more.

"Where Is the Love" by Black Eyed Peas plays.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

SIERRA
Where is the love, the love, the
love.

She smiles.

RICK (O.C.)
That's the spot baby cakes!

SIERRA
Shh!!

RICK (O.C.)
Come here.

Sierra opens her eyes. She sits up.

A woman sits on Rick's lap, kissing his neck. REBECCA, 19. A
deceased girl with unfinished business.

RICK (CONT'D)
You don't mind if I have company
over, do you?

Rick unties her **bikini top**. He pulls it from her chest and
drives his face into her bare breast.

SIERRA
(growl)

Sierra covers her head with the blanket.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM-DAY

Sierra opens the curtain to the shower.

Rick stands under the shower head, kissing Rebecca.

RICK
Rebecca doesn't mind if you watch.
Do you babe?

REBECCA (SUBTITLE)
(In Italian)
No, not at all.

Sierra closes the curtain.

SIERRA
(growl)

Sierra steps out of the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-DAY

A hood over her head, and her laptop in front of her. Sierra taps her fingers on the keys.

Professor Roberts steps towards his desk. He sets his **briefcase** down on the floor.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
Good morning, everyone!

STUDENTS
Good morning!

Professor Roberts steps towards Sierra.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
Smith!

SIERRA
Hold on a minute!

Professor Roberts closes the laptop.

Sierra watches it as it closes on her.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
Type your words on your own time,
okay.

SIERRA
Okay.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
New assignment for this week! Based
on what Ms. Smith has taught us. I
want you to write me a character
that you can't get out of your
head. Character is everything!

Sierra raises her hand.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Yes!

SIERRA

So, we can work on it in class?

Professor Roberts leans down and looks Sierra in the eyes.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS

Ms. Smith, I don't care when you start it! Get it done.

Professor Roberts steps away from Sierra. He sits on the top of the desk.

Sierra pulls her journal from her backpack. She grabs the pen attached to the **steel loops** and starts writing.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA TEACHING KITCHEN-DAY

Leaned against the **isle counter**, Sierra writes her thoughts.

SIERRA (V.O.)

There she was, sitting at the top of the counter. Giving him the best birthday present he could have dreamed of. Only, he was there for one thing. No birthday cake, no present. Just to break up with her.

A man steps into the kitchen. PAUL, 20. Teaching assistant. A patient man with a big heart.

PAUL

Good morning!

Sierra looks at Paul. She drops her journal to the floor. She smiles at the sight of Paul's smile. Not able to contain how she feels about him at the moment, only that she wants to make love to him at the moment.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I'll be teaching class for the day.
Who needs a partner?

GIRLS #1, #2 and #3. Late teens.

Girls #1 and #2 raise their hands up with Sierra's.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 (point)
 You!

Sierra smiles.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 What's your name?

SIERRA
 Sierra.

PAUL
 Nice name.

SIERRA
 Thanks.

PAUL
 We're going to make a cheesecake
 today. Are you fine with that?

SIERRA (V.O.)
 I'll do whatever you want. I'll
 feed it to you if you want.

Paul puts all the ingredients into the *mixing bowl*.

Sierra stands in front of the mixing bowl.

Paul puts the *whisk* into Sierra's hand and helps her mix in the ingredients.

SIERRA
 (laugh)

PAUL
 You're getting it.

The finished cheesecake sits on the isle counter.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 Looks good. I'd give you an A!

Paul looks down at the journal next to his foot. He picks it up.

PAUL (CONT'D)
 What's this!

SIERRA
 No --

PAUL

(read)

There she was, sitting at the top of the counter. Giving him the best birthday present he could have dreamed of. Only, he was there for one thing. No birthday cake, no present. Just to break up with her.

He smiles.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You wrote this?

SIERRA

Yes.

PAUL

It's good. Honest.

Paul hands her the journal.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Nice work.

SIERRA

Thanks.

PAUL

Do you care to try a piece?

SIERRA

I'll try some.

Sierra goes to cut the cheesecake with a **butterknife**.

Paul grabs a spoon.

PAUL

Not that way.

Paul scoops the cheesecake onto the spoon and puts it in Sierra's face.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Open wide!

Sierra opens her mouth.

Paul slides the spoon into her mouth.

Sierra closes her mouth.

SIERRA
 Hmm --

PAUL
 Good, huh?

SIERRA
 Yes.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

Sierra leans against the wall, writing in her journal.

SIERRA (V.O.)
 Little did she know how to make any
 desserts. Cheesecake became her
 favorite. The taste along with the
 way he smiled at her, the wonderful
 compliments made her want to know
 him more.

PAUL (O.C.)
 Sierra!

Sierra tosses the journal into the air from the sudden scare.

SIERRA
 Yes?

Sierra picks up the journal.

PAUL
 Can I buy you a coffee?

SIERRA
 Sure.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP-NIGHT

Paul takes a sip from his coffee cup.

SIERRA
 How long have you been cooking?

Paul sets the coffee cup down.

PAUL
 Ever since I was twelve.

SIERRA

Wow!

PAUL

How long have you been writing?

SIERRA

Since I was twelve.

PAUL

Wow. Same ages.

SIERRA

(laugh)

PAUL

What made you want to be a writer?

SIERRA

I just wrote one day and couldn't stop. Do you ever feel that way with cooking?

PAUL

No. I actually want to be a contractor.

SIERRA

Cool.

Paul smiles.

PAUL

Do you want to know something?

SIERRA

What's that?

PAUL

The light in your eyes really shows your beauty.

Sierra smiles. She lowers her head.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Never slouch.

She raises her head up and looks him in the eyes. Sierra smiles.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Let me walk you to your dorm.

Sierra stands up.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

Sierra's hand on the doorknob.

PAUL
It was a pleasure talking to you.

SIERRA
Same here.

PAUL
We have to do it again.

SIERRA
How about next week.

PAUL
Sure.

Paul shakes her hand and kisses her on the cheek.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Good night.

Sierra opens the door.

SIERRA
Good night.

Sierra steps in and shuts the door.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra leans back against the door. She slides down to the floor.

ERIN
Rough day?

SIERRA
No. The best.

ERIN
What is it, a guy?

SIERRA
Sorry, I'm not telling.

Sierra stands to her feet and steps to her bed. She sits.

ERIN
Can you at least tell me how
cooking class was?

SIERRA
It was great.

Sierra grabs her **towel** and stands up.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
I'm going to go take a shower.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM/SHOWER AREA-NIGHT

Sierra opens the curtain. She covers herself with the towel.

Rick steps in front of her.

RICK
Come on, you know there's room for
one man in your life. That's me!

Sierra opens the door and steps out.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

Rick rushes after Sierra. He walks alongside of her.

RICK
When he's done with you, who's
going to be here for you!

SIERRA
Somebody.

Sierra stops at the door and pushes it open. She steps into the dorm room. The door slams shut.

RICK
Ungrateful little --

Rick steps away from the door. In a bit of frustration, he yanks at his hair.

RICK (CONT'D)
(yell)

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra brushes through her hair while staring back at herself in the mirror.

SIERRA
Hmm --hmm -- hmm --

Sierra sets the **brush** down on the dresser. She crawls onto the bed and pulls the blanket over herself.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Good night.

ERIN
Good night.

Erin steps towards the door. She opens it and steps out.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY-NIGHT

At a table, Paul sits, reading a book.

Erin steps behind him. She snatches the book from him.

PAUL
Hey!

ERIN
The deals off!

PAUL
Why?

ERIN
Because she thinks this whole thing is real. She thinks you actually like her.

PAUL
What if I do.

ERIN
You can't be serious.

PAUL
I am.

ERIN
Okay, just don't hurt her.

PAUL
Relax. I got this.

Paul takes the book from Erin's hand.

ERIN
It's your ass.

Erin steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

Paul stands in front of the door.

The door opens.

Sierra steps out of the dorm room wearing a *red dress*.

Paul's eyes in amazement.

Sierra smiles.

Paul puts his hand out.

Sierra grabs a hold of his hand.

Paul walks with her.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-ITALIAN RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Sierra steps towards the chair.

PAUL
Allow me?

Paul pulls out the chair for her.

SIERRA
Thank you.

Sierra sits.

Paul sits.

Sierra looks at her *menu*.

PAUL
What looks good to you?

SIERRA
The Lasagna looks good. What catches your eye?

PAUL
The same thing.

WAITRESS, early 20s.

WAITRESS
Hello there! Can I get you started with something to drink?

PAUL
What do you want?

SIERRA
I'll have an iced tea.

PAUL
I'll have a water.

WAITRESS
Are we ready to order now?

SIERRA
Can I have the Lasagna?

WAITRESS
Sure. And you?

PAUL
I'll have the Lasagna as well. Can I order dessert now?

WAITRESS
You sure can.

PAUL
Can I get the Tiramisu.

WAITRESS
Coming right up.

The Waitress takes the menus.

SIERRA
I never heard of that.

PAUL
You never had Tiramisu?

SIERRA
No.

CUT TO:

EXT. ITALIAN RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Girls #1, #2 and #3 walk past. Girl #2 looks at Sierra.

GIRL #2
Look! It's teacher's pet.

GIRL #1
No wonder. She's letting him hit that!

GIRL #2
The nerve of her!

Girls #1, #2 and #3 step away from the window.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING AREA-ITALIAN RESTAURANT-NIGHT

Paul dips a spoon into the Tiramisu.

PAUL
Close your eyes.

Sierra closes her eyes.

Paul moves the spoon towards her mouth.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Open wide!

Sierra opens her mouth.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Here comes the little airplane!

Paul puts the spoon into her mouth.

Sierra closes her mouth.

SIERRA

Hmm -- hmm --

Sierra opens her eyes.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

You were right.

PAUL

Do you want some more?

SIERRA

I'm fool. Thanks.

Paul digs the spoon into the Tiramisu.

PAUL

Maybe I can cook for you someday.

SIERRA

That would be amazing!

Sierra smiles.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-NIGHT

SIERRA

I had a great time.

PAUL

I did too.

Sierra stops.

SIERRA

Good night.

Sierra turns around.

PAUL

Are you alone up there?

Sierra's eyes wander around. An idea comes to her mind.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Laid asleep in the bed together.

Sierra leans her head against the pillow while Paul has his arms wrapped around her.

The door opens.

Erin steps in. She sees Paul in the bed with Sierra.

ERIN
(roll eyes)

She turns away.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT-NIGHT (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Step after step, Sierra makes her way to the top of the mountain.

Pieces of paper flying into the air.

Sierra catches one.

SIERRA
(read)
The things that meant the world to
her were beginning to fade away.
Her mother was dead, and so would
be her father.

Sierra's eyes water with tears.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sierra opens her eyes. She sits up on the bed.

SIERRA
Paul!

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-DAY

ERIN
Take this and walk away!

Erin hands Paul a **three-hundred-dollar check**.

PAUL
No.

ERIN
Just take it!

Sierra peeks her head out.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Come on, stop embarrassing yourself
with her. Take it!

The door slams shut.

Erin looks at the door.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Tell me she didn't hear every word!

Paul closes his eyes.

PAUL
(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Sierra empties the dresser drawers. She tosses her **socks** and **underwear** into a **duffle bag**.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-CONTINUOUS

Erin knocks on the door.

ERIN
Sierra, open the door please!

Paul walks in circles. He waits patiently.

The door opens.

Sierra rushes past Erin.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Sierra --

SIERRA
Don't talk to me!!

Paul rushes towards her.

PAUL
Hold on!

SIERRA
No!!

Sierra rushes away.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. SIERRA'S TOYOTA COROLLA-DAY

Sierra opens the back passenger door to her **Toyota Corolla**. She tosses the duffle bag in and slams the door shut.

SIERRA
(sob)
(cry)

Sierra opens the driver door. She sits.

ERIN (O.C.)
Sierra!!!

Sierra slams the door shut. She starts the ignition. Sierra puts the AUTOMATIC in REVERSE.

CUT TO:

EXT. PARKING LOT-DAY

The Toyota Corolla drives out of the parking lot.

Erin grabs her head in frustration.

ERIN
Shit!!

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S TOYOTA COROLLA-DAY

Sierra drives into the driveway.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. GARAGE-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Standing in front of a **painted canvas**, Faith splashes a bit of **red paint** on it. "Where Is The Love" by Black Eyed Peas plays.

The car door slams shut.

Faith turns around. She looks at Sierra.

Sierra drops the duffle bag on the floor of the garage.

FAITH
You decided to listen to me after
all.

SIERRA
(sob)

FAITH
What's wrong!

Sierra wraps her arms around Faith, holding her tight.

SIERRA
(cry)

FAITH
Shh!!

Faith grabs a hold of Sierra's hand. She pulls her towards the door.

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S BEDROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Laid comfortably in her bed, Sierra rests her head on the pillows.

Faith covers her with a **comforter**.

FAITH
Comfortable?

SIERRA
(nod)

FAITH
I'm going to the store. Do you need
anything?

SIERRA

I'm fine.

Light shines in from the door across. A **silhouette** of a man peeks into Sierra's bedroom.

FAITH

Don't you want to come say hi?

The door slams shut.

FAITH (CONT'D)

Okay!

Faith steps towards the door.

SIERRA

Faith?

Faith looks back at Sierra.

FAITH

Yeah?

SIERRA

Thanks.

Faith smiles.

FAITH

No problem.

She steps out.

The door closes.

SIERRA

(breath)

Sierra closes her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. GROCERY STORE-DAY

Faith steps towards the **drumsticks**. She grabs a rack of the drumsticks and drops it into the **grocery cart**.

FAITH

Oh, **pot-roast**!

Faith rushes further down the meat aisle.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Feet step down the stairs. Man's feet approach the **dark brown finish painted piano**. NICHOLAS, 56. A retired police detective. An oppressed man with emotional and trauma issues.

Nicholas sits on the **bench**. He taps his fingers on the keys.

NICHOLAS

Hmm -- hmm --

Nicholas plays "Get Rhythm" by Johnny Cash.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)

Hey, get Rhythm When you get the blues
C'mon, get rhythm When you get the blues.

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S BEDROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Sierra opens her eyes. She sits up.

SIERRA

(laugh)

She stands up from the bed.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-CONTINUOUS

Sierra rushes into the living room. She looks around.

SIERRA

Dad!!

The bedroom door slams shut.

Tears stream down her cheek. She wipes them away with her fingertips.

CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S BEDROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Nicholas sits on his bed. He holds a photograph in his hands. Ten-year-old Faith with baby Sierra and his wife Carmen.

NICHOLAS
I'm trying.

Nicholas wipes his eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-NIGHT

Faith sets a *pot* of *macaroni & cheese* down.

Sierra bites into a drumstick.

FAITH
Did he come out?

SIERRA
I heard him playing the piano.

FAITH
Oh! He played for you!

SIERRA
What do you mean he played for me?

FAITH
He does that. What was the music he played?

SIERRA
Get Rhythm. Something like that.

FAITH
Johnny Cash.

SIERRA
How's Aiden?

FAITH
He's good. Michael took him to his parents for the week.

Sierra scoops up some of the macaroni & cheese onto her plate. She shovel's it into her mouth.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Do you want to tell me about what happened?

SIERRA

Not really.

FAITH

You don't have to tell me now. It's a guy. Let me guess, someone paid him to go out with you because they saw you as pathetic.

SIERRA

How do you know this?

FAITH

Because that's what a friend thinks. Can I tell you something?

SIERRA

No but you're going to anyways.

FAITH

Outside of this house, you have people that care about you. Embrace it! At least she thought of you.

Faith drops three drumsticks on a plate, along with macaroni & cheese. She puts **green beans** next to the drumsticks.

FAITH (CONT'D)

If you would excuse me, I have a hungry man waiting!

Faith grabs the plate and walks towards the stairs.

Sierra takes a bite from a drumstick. Her eyes wander.

SIERRA (V.O.)

When she's right, she's right.

Sierra drops the drumstick.

SIERRA (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Faith, sometimes I hate your face.

Footsteps over her head. Sierra looks up.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

A **glass bottle** shatters on a **tree trunk**.

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S BEDROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Sierra sits up. She looks around.

 SIERRA
What -- the --

A gunshot fired.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Sierra steps down the stairs.

 SIERRA
Faith!!

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Sierra slowly steps towards Nicholas. She steps alongside of him.

 SIERRA
I finally get to see you this time.

Nicholas shoots the target.

 NICHOLAS
I had my reasons.

 SIERRA
I know.

Nicholas takes out the empty **clip**. He reloads and cocks it.

 NICHOLAS
Do you care to try?

 SIERRA
Maybe later.

 NICHOLAS
Okay.

Nicholas sets the gun down.

 NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Tell me, do you like this new
boyfriend of yours?

SIERRA
He's not my boyfriend. I thought I
liked him.

NICHOLAS
How do you feel about him now?

SIERRA
I don't know.

Nicholas steps towards the porch with Sierra.

NICHOLAS
I never spoken to you about the
birds and bees. I'm sorry.

SIERRA
It's fine.

Nicholas sits.

NICHOLAS
No, it's not.

Nicholas looks at his hands.

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELD-DAY-FLASHBACK

His bloody hands in his eyesight.

NICHOLAS
(sob)

His fingers grab onto a woman. CARMEN, 49. Retired police
detective. Humble and kindhearted.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
I lost a piece of myself that day.

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-SMITH RESIDENCE-BACK TO PRESENT

Sierra wipes the tears from her face.

SIERRA
(sob)

Nicholas stands to his feet. He wraps his arms around her.

NICHOLAS
I'm sorry.

SIERRA
(cry)

FAITH (O.C.)
Hey!

Faith raises up two bags of takeout food.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Who's ready to eat!

NICHOLAS
What do you say I race you?

SIERRA
Alright.

Nicholas sets himself to go for the run.

NICHOLAS
Ready, set!

SIERRA
Go!!

Sierra runs towards the porch.

NICHOLAS
Cheater!!

Nicholas runs after her.

Sierra makes it to the porch.

SIERRA
Loser washes the dishes!

Nicholas leans down and catches his breath.

NICHOLAS
(breath)
Nice job!

Nicholas wraps his arm around her back.

SIERRA
Let's eat.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Sierra slices a fork through a **pancake**. She takes a bite.

SIERRA

Hmm -- Hmm.

NICHOLAS

What are you going to do?

SIERRA

I don't know. What do you want me to do?

NICHOLAS

I don't want you to be unhappy. I also don't want you to walk away from something you love to do. Your mother told you that you have a gift. The only one stopping you is you. If this guy or your friend can't see you for who you are, then they don't deserve you. If I have to, I'll sleepover to creep everyone out.

SIERRA

(laugh)

Sierra kisses Nicholas on the cheek. She takes a bite of some more of the pancakes.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRONT YARD-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

Nicholas hugs Sierra.

NICHOLAS

I got you something.

Sierra back away.

SIERRA

Really, what?

Nicholas steps towards the porch and grabs a **wooden box**. He hands it to Sierra.

Sierra opens it.

A **silver pistol** in the box.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
It's beautiful. I can't have this
with me.

NICHOLAS
Keep it hidden.

"Janie's Got a Gun" by Aerosmith plays.

SIERRA
I can't.

NICHOLAS
Take it!

Sierra takes the box.

SIERRA
Okay.

Sierra kisses Nicholas on the cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S TOYOTA COROLLA-DAY

Sierra drives the Toyota Corolla into the parking lot.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Sierra sets a box down in the middle of the living room.

Faith looks around.

FAITH
This is definitely you.

A knock on the door.

SIERRA
Come in!

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Faith opens the drawers. She sets the **potholders** in one drawer and **silverware** in the other.

FAITH
What are you going to do for work?

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NURSING HOME-DAY

Sierra steps through the hallways, pushing a **cart**.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Work in a nursing home or something
like that.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Faith sets pillows down on a bed.

FAITH
What about school?

SIERRA
I'll manage.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-DAY

Sierra sits and writes in her journal.

SIERRA (V.O.)
After getting something that her
parents gave her. The confidence to
do what makes her happy. She truly
found her voice. Just like her
mother had told her. Here it is.

Professor Roberts steps towards her.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
I missed you in class yesterday. Is
something wrong?

SIERRA
Just some family business.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
Is everything fine?

SIERRA

Yes. Can I get back to writing. I have a full schedule to keep to.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS

Yes.

Professor Roberts steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA TEACHING KITCHEN-DAY

Sierra drops a bag full of ingredients onto the isle counter.

Girls #1, #2 and #3 look at the ingredients.

Paul steps into the kitchen. He looks at the ingredients.

PAUL

Sierra -- I'm --

SIERRA

Can we just cook! No need to flap your gums.

PAUL

Okay.

Sierra reaches up to the mixing bowl at the top of the cupboard.

Paul grabs it. He hands it to her.

Sierra snatches it from him.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Look --

SIERRA

Don't waste your breath. Go talk to those three bitches over there.

Paul looks at Girls #1, #2 and #3.

PAUL

Fine.

Paul steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP-DAY

At a table, all to herself. Sierra sits and sips from her coffee cup.

ERIN (O.C.)
It's good to see you back.

SIERRA
I'm guessing you talked to Paul.

ERIN
No.

Erin sets the photo album down on the table.

ERIN (CONT'D)
I found this.

Sierra grabs the photo album. She flips through the pages of the photographs.

SIERRA
Thanks.

ERIN
So, are you in another dorm?

SIERRA
I got my own apartment.

ERIN
That's cool.

Sierra looks at her.

ERIN (CONT'D)
I really am sorry for the way things went. I never meant to hurt you.

SIERRA
Forget about it. It's over.

ERIN
Well, I'll see you around.

SIERRA
Later.

Erin steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Sierra opens the door.

Nicholas steps in.

NICHOLAS

Hey there!

Nicholas kisses her on the cheek and hugs her.

Sierra steps back.

SIERRA

(point)

There's your recliner and your TV
tray.

Nicholas picks up his duffle bag and walks towards the hallway.

SIERRA (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I'm making your favorite.

NICHOLAS

Awesome!

Sierra smiles.

SIERRA

(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

A scent of Lasagna spreads throughout the apartment.

SIERRA

Dad, dinner's ready!

A knock on the door.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Sierra steps towards the door. She unlocks it and pulls it open.

Paul stands in front of her.

SIERRA
Hi.

PAUL
Hi.

SIERRA
How --

PAUL
I -- followed you.

SIERRA
You followed me.

Nicholas steps towards the door.

NICHOLAS
Who is that?

SIERRA
Just some guy.

NICHOLAS
(wave)
Let him in!

Sierra steps aside.

Paul steps in.

Sierra closes the door. She locks it.

SIERRA
Shall we.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

At the end of the table, Sierra sits. She slices into the Lasagna on her plate with a fork.

Nicholas scoops the rest of his Lasagna into his mouth.

NICHOLAS
That was good. Thanks, girlie.

SIERRA
Anytime dad.

Nicholas stands up and grabs his plate. He steps into the kitchen.

Sierra leans towards Paul.

PAUL
Your dad seems nice.

SIERRA
Lasagna is his favorite. So, he's
going to be nice.

PAUL
Really.

NICHOLAS (O.C.)
Do you want me to take your plates?

SIERRA
We're fine dad.

PAUL
Thanks Mr. Smith.

Nicholas steps towards the table.

NICHOLAS
Please, call me Nick. Everyone else
does.

PAUL
Okay, Nick.

Nicholas steps out of the kitchen.

NICHOLAS (O.C.)
I'll be in the living room.

SIERRA
Okay dad.

PAUL
I wanted to say that things between
us -- my feelings towards you are
real.

SIERRA
Are?

PAUL
Are.

Sierra leans towards Paul.

Paul kisses her.

"Watermelon Sugar" by Harry Styles plays.

He wraps his arms around her back.

NICHOLAS (O.S.)
Whoa! That's how you kiss a woman!
You don't let her take a breath.

Sierra smiles.

Paul smiles.

PAUL
(laugh)

SIERRA
(laugh)

NICHOLAS (O.S.)
What! That's a lot of lip!

Sierra stands up.

SIERRA
Do you care for some Tiramisu?

PAUL
Sure.

Sierra opens the *refrigerator*.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATIO-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Sierra stands, leaned against the balcony.

Paul kisses her.

Sierra looks inside the living room.

SIERRA
It's getting late.

Paul backs away.

PAUL
Yeah.

Sierra steps towards the sliding glass door.

PAUL (CONT'D)
What are you doing tomorrow?

SIERRA
I'm working tomorrow night.

PAUL
Maybe I can -- bring you something
-- A coffee or something.

Paul steps close to her. He kisses her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

PAUL (O.S.)
Good night.

SIERRA
Night.

Sierra closes the door. She turns around and leans against the door. Sierra closes her eyes and smiles.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(breath)

Sierra opens her eyes. She steps towards Nicholas, sitting in the recliner, asleep. She grabs the blanket from over the top of the recliner and covers Nicholas.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Good night daddy.

Sierra kisses him on the cheek.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
I love you.

NICHOLAS
I love you too baby girl.

Sierra steps away.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NURSING HOME-NIGHT

Sierra picks up her cell phone from her lap. She sees a text message.

PAUL (TEXT)
I'm at the front door.

SIERRA (TEXT)

Coming.

Sierra stands up.

CUT TO:

EXT. NURSING HOME-NIGHT

Sierra and Paul kiss.

Sierra pushes him back.

SIERRA

I got to get back to work.

Sierra steps towards the door.

PAUL

I'm leaving school.

Sierra stops.

SIERRA

When?

PAUL

Next week.

SIERRA

(breath)

PAUL

I wanted to tell you sooner, but
you weren't talking to me.

SIERRA

Where does this leave us?

PAUL

Marry me?

SIERRA

What?

PAUL

Marry me. We'll make it official.

SIERRA

I can't just marry you. I have my
dad, my job and school.

Paul steps towards Sierra. He brushes his hand through her hair.

PAUL
You don't have to give any of that
up.

He grabs her hand and hands her a **ring box**. Paul steps away.

SIERRA
Hey!

Paul looks back.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Let's do it right.

Paul rushes towards her. He kisses her and lifts her up.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(laugh)

He sets her down and takes the ring box. Paul slides the ring onto her ring finger. He kisses her.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY

The door closes.

Sierra steps towards the sofa. She drops down.

A sound of scrapping comes from the kitchen.

Sierra jumps, getting a jump scare.

NICHOLAS (O.S.)
Good morning baby girl!

Nicholas steps into the living room. A **skillet** in one hand and a **spatula** in the other.

NICHOLAS (CONT'D)
Eggs?

SIERRA
No thanks. I'm just going to go to
bed.

Nicholas steps into the kitchen.

Sierra rests her head on the back of the sofa.

Nicholas steps towards her and lifts her up over his shoulder.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(laugh)

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S BEDROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY

Nicholas walks into the bedroom. He sets her down on the bed.

NICHOLAS
Now, sleep!

He kisses her on the forehead.

SIERRA
Thanks dad.

Nicholas steps out of the bedroom.

Sierra lifts her shirt over her head and tosses it to the floor.

She lays her head on the pillows and closes her eyes.

Nicholas steps into the bedroom. He pulls the blanket over Sierra.

He steps out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY (DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sierra stands in the middle of the room. She looks around.

RICK (V.O.)
Is somebody there!

SIERRA
Where are you!

RICK (V.O.)
In here!!

Sierra steps towards the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM/SHOWER AREA-NIGHT

Sierra steps into the bathroom.

A bloodied shower curtain.

Rick's head sits, rested on the end of the bathtub. He opens his eyes.

RICK (V.O.)
You're next!

Sierra looks down at the floor.

The lifeless body of Rebecca lies in front of Sierra.

RICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Hurry! Before she gets you too.

SIERRA
Who!

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S BEDROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-DAY (END DREAM SEQUENCE)

Sierra opens her eyes. She sits up.

SIERRA
(breath)

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY-DAY

At a **desktop computer**, Sierra taps her fingers on the keyboard.

COMPUTER SCREEN

The CURSOR goes to the SEARCH ENGINE and DOUBLE CLICKS. Words are typed out. It reads: Missing persons in UCLA.

Missing persons posters appear.

BACK TO SCENE

Sierra looks at the poster at the bottom of the screen.

SIERRA
Rick Spears. Okay.

She goes further down.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
(point)
Got ya!

Sierra looks at the poster of Rebecca.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Rebecca Bianchi.

The **Printer** prints the posters.

Sierra grabs the posters. She steps away from the Desktop Computer.

Erin runs into her. Dropping her books along with the posters.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Sorry!

Sierra drops to her knees.

Erin crouches down. She grabs the books and stacks them on top of each other.

ERIN
It's fine.

Erin looks at Sierra.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Sierra!

SIERRA
Erin. What's up?

ERIN
Just doing research. You?

SIERRA
Same.

Erin flips the poster over and looks at it.

ERIN
Looking for this guy?

SIERRA
He just seems interesting to me.
You know?

ERIN
Yeah.

Sierra takes the poster from Erin and picks up the other poster. She stands to her feet.

SIERRA
See you around.

Sierra steps away.

ERIN
Yeah, same to you.

Erin picks up the books and walks towards a table. Her eyes on Sierra.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NURSING HOME-NIGHT

Sierra sits on a chair. She looks at the poster.

SIERRA
What now Rick?

Sierra closes her eyes.

Rick leans to her ear.

RICK (V.O.)
Wall --

SIERRA
What!

RICK (V.O.)
Inside --

Sierra opens her eyes.

SIERRA
Okay.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA TEACHING KITCHEN-DAY

Sierra stands at the end of the isle table.

Paul steps behind her.

PAUL
Good morning!

Sierra jumps.

SIERRA
You scared me!

PAUL
I'm sorry.

He kisses her on the cheek.

PAUL (CONT'D)
You're here early.

SIERRA
Yeah, I wanted to ask you for a
favor.

PAUL
What favor?

CUT TO:

EXT. DIK FRAT HOUSE-NIGHT

Paul is crouched down to his knees in the **bushes**. His eyes are on the frat house. He puts a **walkie talkie** to his mouth.

PAUL
How long is she going to be here
for?

SIERRA (V.O.)
Until she gets her fish!

PAUL
What's the code?

SIERRA (V.O.)
Fish!!

PAUL
10-4.

SIERRA (V.O.)
10-4?

PAUL
It means okay.

SIERRA (V.O.)
10-4.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

Sierra unlocks the door. She pushes it open.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

Sierra flips the light switch on.

SIERRA
Okay. Where is this wall.

Sierra steps towards Erin's bed. She lifts the mattress. A stack of photographs underneath. She grabs a hold of them. Photo after photo, Sierra looks at the pictures of Rick and Rebecca.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
You were her roommate, weren't you
Rebecca. She saw you with Rick --
and the rest is history.

Sierra comes across a photo of Erin with Rick and Rebecca.

A smile on her face.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Got ya!

CUT TO:

EXT. DIK FRAT HOUSE-NIGHT

Erin steps off the porch of the frat house.

Paul stands up and sees Erin walking towards him.

PAUL
Fish!

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Sierra puts the photographs under the mattress. She slides the picture into her pocket.

Rick leans towards Sierra's ear.

RICK (V.O.)
Wall!

Sierra stands up. She pulls the bed frame away from the wall and sees Rick's decomposing head wrapped in a plastic bag.

SIERRA
I see!

Sierra lifts her cell phone up. She snaps a picture.

CUT TO:

EXT. DIK FRAT HOUSE-NIGHT

PAUL
Abort!!

Paul drops down into the bushes

Erin stops. She looks around.

Frat Boy #2 looks around.

FRAT BOY #2
What?

ERIN
I thought I heard something.

Erin starts walking.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-NIGHT

The door opens.

Sierra slowly steps out of the dorm room. She shuts the door and locks it. Sierra rushes down the hallway.

Erin's face appears in the window.

Sierra grabs the doorknob to the bathroom and pulls it open. She rushes in, closing the door.

Erin steps to the door of her dorm room with Frat Boy #2. She opens the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM/SHOWER AREA-NIGHT

Sierra's eyes peek out into the hallway.

The door to the dorm room closes.

Sierra steps out of the bathroom.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY-CONTINUOUS

Sierra rushes towards the door. She pushes the door open. Her hands reach down for the walkie talkie but realizes she doesn't have it.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

PAUL (V.O.)
Sierra!! Abort!

Erin steps towards the walkie talkie. She picks it up.

Erin smiles. She switches the walkie talkie off.

FRAT BOY #2 (O.C.)
What was that about?

ERIN
A prank. Do you want something to drink?

FRAT BOY #2 (O.C.)
Hell yeah!

Erin turns around and steps towards him.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. SIERRA'S TOYOTA COROLLA-NIGHT

Her cell phone in the palm of her hands. Sierra taps her fingers on the screen.

A knock on the passenger door.

Sierra jumps out of her skin.

Paul peeks his head up.

SIERRA

Ahh!!

Paul opens the door. He sits in the passenger seat.

PAUL

(breath)

Any luck?

SIERRA

Yeah.

Sierra turns the key in the ignition.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-NIGHT

ERIN

I really wish there were more guys
like you out there, but then again,
I know they're not going to change.
There's a miracle that's not going
to happen.

No movement from Frat Boy #2.

Erin leans her head on his shoulder.

ERIN (CONT'D)

(laugh)

Thanks for listening.

Erin stands up.

Frat Boy #2 falls back to the bed. His throat slit.

ERIN (CONT'D)
Pardon me darling. I got a noisy
roommate to take care of.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

The door opens. Sierra peeks her head in.

SIERRA
Dad!! Are you here!

Sierra looks back at Paul.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
He's not here.

Sierra pushes the door open.

Paul rushes in.

PAUL
Mr. Smith!!!

Sierra locks the door.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Stay here!

Sierra steps towards the sofa. She lowers herself to the floor.

SIERRA
Dad, where are you?

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP-NIGHT

At a table to himself, Nicholas takes a sip from a paper cup. He stands to his feet and drops a five-dollar bill to the table.

NICHOLAS
Have a good night, ladies.

BARISTA GIRLS #1 and #2. Late teens.

BARISTA GIRL #1
Thanks. You too sir!

Nicholas steps towards the door and pushes it open.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-CONTINUOUS

Sierra puts her cell phone to her ear.

SIERRA
Answer!!

She drops the phone in frustration.

A knife slides underneath her chin.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Erin.

Erin leans her face close to Sierra's.

ERIN
Sierra!

SIERRA
Paul?

ERIN
He's alive. Just a bump on the head.

SIERRA
I can explain.

ERIN
No need to, really. Someone was bound to find out.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM-DAY-FLASHBACK

Rick and Erin stand across from each other.

ERIN (V.O.)
I first laid my eyes on Rick when my roommate, Rebecca brought him from the DIK frat house.
(MORE)

ERIN (V.O.) (CONT'D)
Ever since that day, I wanted him
all to myself. Why her?

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM/SHOWER AREA-NIGHT

Erin strangles Rebecca to death with a **cord**.

REBECCA
(gag)
(choke)

ERIN (V.O.)
I strangled her to death. Why
should a whore like her get a man
like him all to herself.

Rick steps in.

RICK
What's going on in here!

Erin smiles. Her hand grips onto a knife. She turns and
drives the knife into his chest.

ERIN (V.O.)
So, I found my own way to keep him
around. At least his head.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-BACK TO PRESENT

The knife presses against Sierra's throat.

ERIN
Now, you're going to look good next
to Rick.

SIERRA
There are things that you don't
know about me.

Erin leans her mouth on Sierra's ear.

ERIN
What's that?

SIERRA
This!

Sierra elbows Erin in the face.

Erin falls back to the floor, dropping the knife. Sierra punches her in the groin.

ERIN
(scream)
Shit!!

Sierra grabs the knife. She tosses it across the room. To her feet, Sierra steps towards the door.

Erin trips her.

Sierra falls to the floor.

SIERRA
Ugh!

Erin crawls on top of her. She reaches into her jacket pocket and pulls out a cord.

ERIN
Don't worry about your father,
Sierra. I'll be the daughter he
always wanted!

Erin wraps the cord around Sierra's neck.

SIERRA
(choke)

The door creaks open.

Erin looks back.

Nicholas grips his hand onto Erin's shoulder. He pulls her up.

NICHOLAS
Think again bitch!

SIERRA
(breath)

Nicholas tosses her against the wall. She rolls onto her stomach. He grips a hold of her hair. Nicholas pushes the blinds and door open.

CUT TO:

EXT. PATIO-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

His hand around Erin's throat.

ERIN

Come on Mr. Smith! I was just playing!!

NICHOLAS

Bounce, no play!

Nicholas raises her off her feet. He throws her down from the patio. She lands on top of Sierra's Toyota Corolla. Erin drops to the sidewalk, cracking her neck.

Sierra rushes towards Nicholas. She looks down at Erin's lifeless body.

SIERRA

My car!

NICHOLAS

You got insurance. You're good.

SIERRA

(laugh)

Sierra hugs Nicholas.

Nicholas brushes his fingers through her hair. He kisses her on the forehead.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Thanks.

NICHOLAS

You're my girl.

Paul steps out onto the patio.

PAUL

Did we get her!

Sierra hugs Paul. She kisses his face.

SIERRA

Oh yeah!

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-DAY

At his desk, Professor Roberts stands.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
Miss Smith?

Sierra stands up.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)
If you would please.

Sierra steps down the steps. She turns and faces the Class.
She looks at the words written in her journal.

SIERRA
(read)
In the North, there's a mountain, a
range of jagged mountains. That's
where she goes. No man or woman
goes, just her. Every night, before
she goes to sleep, she wishes for
one more day with her father.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Sierra covers Nicholas with a blanket. She kisses his face.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Her protector. No weapon of any
kind can match what he has. That's
love! Hand in hand, He'll walk her
down the aisle someday. His and
hers true happiness. That mountain
will be there.

CUT TO:

INT. UCLA CLASSROOM-CONTINUOUS

SIERRA
(read)
No matter what, she'll go back to
the mountain. She'll be under the
Sierra moon.

Sierra looks around at the Class.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Sierra starts to step towards the Class.

The Class stands.

CLASS
(applause)

Sierra smiles.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS
(clap)

Sierra looks at Professor Roberts.

PROFESSOR ROBERTS (CONT'D)
(wink)

Sierra steps up the stairs. She sits at her desk. A big smile on her face.

CUT TO:

INT. DRESSING ROOM-CHURCH-DAY

SUPER: FOUR YEARS LATER

Sierra looks at herself in the mirror.

FAITH
Are you ready?

SIERRA
Yes.

Sierra stands up.

Faith hands her a **bouquet**.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Thanks.

FAITH
Let's do this!

Faith steps out of the dressing room.

Sierra looks at herself in the mirror.

SIERRA
Wish me luck!

Sierra steps out of the dressing room.

CUT TO:

INT. AUDITORIUM-CHURCH-DAY

The piano plays.

Sierra's eyes meet Nicholas's. She grips onto his left hand. He slowly walks her down the aisle.

NICHOLAS
(breath)

SIERRA
Are you alright?

NICHOLAS
Yeah.

To the front **pews**. Nicholas stops.

Faith grabs a hold of Nicholas's hand.

FAITH
I got you.

Nicholas sits with Faith.

Sierra steps up to the **altar**. In the corner of her eye, she looks back at Nicholas.

CUT TO:

INT. BALLROOM-HOTEL-NIGHT

In the middle of the dance floor, dancing together as husband and wife. Sierra leans her head on Paul's shoulder.

"Thinking Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran plays.

A glass of water in his hand. Nicholas sets the glass down.

Sierra's eyes on Nicholas.

SIERRA
Can I dance with my father?

PAUL
Sure.

Sierra kisses him on the cheek.

SIERRA
Thanks.

Sierra steps towards Nicholas.

Nicholas leans his head down. His eyes on the floor.

Sierra reaches her hand out.

Nicholas looks at her hand.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Come on.

Nicholas grabs a hold of her hand. He pushes himself up.
Slowly walking to the middle of the dance floor.

Sierra puts her hands on his shoulder.

Nicholas wraps his arms around her back.

"Can't Help Falling In Love" by Elvis Presley plays.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

How are you feeling?

NICHOLAS

I'm fine.

Nicholas lifts Sierra up from her shoes and onto his feet.

SIERRA

(laugh)

NICHOLAS

I got you.

Sierra rests her head against his chest, closing her eyes.

SIERRA

Am I going to be a good mom, dad?

NICHOLAS

A great one.

SIERRA

Thanks.

She turns her head to the right.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Maybe you can visit, once we get --

A look of disappointment and anger shows on Nicholas's face.

NICHOLAS

Wait! What!!

SIERRA
We're moving, dad!

NICHOLAS
Just like that?

SIERRA
Yeah.

NICHOLAS
When were you going to tell me!
After you moved!!

SIERRA
Calm down, dad.

Sierra backs away and trips over her heels.

Nicholas steps away. He falls onto his arm.

NICHOLAS
Ugh!

Sierra sits up.

WAITERS #1, #2 and #3. Early 20s.

Waiters #1, #2 and #3 crouch down.

Waiters #1 and #2 put Nicholas's arms around their backs.

Sierra stands up. She steps towards Nicholas.

Faith gets in front of her.

FAITH
I got him.

SIERRA
But --

FAITH
Go enjoy your dance.

CUT TO:

INT. WAITING ROOM-HOSPITAL-NIGHT

In the waiting room. Sierra's hand in Paul's.

SIERRA
I should've waited.

PAUL
You were being honest.

SIERRA
I broke his heart.

PAUL
No, you didn't.

Faith steps towards the waiting room.

Sierra stands up.

SIERRA
How is he?

FAITH
I thought I told you to go enjoy
yourselves.

SIERRA
Faith how is he!

FAITH
He twisted his ankle.

Sierra steps closer.

FAITH (CONT'D)
Go on your honeymoon.

SIERRA
I want to see him!

FAITH
He doesn't want to see you!

SIERRA
(sob)

Paul wraps his arms around Sierra. She steps past Faith.

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM #566-HOTEL-NIGHT

Sierra lies on her stomach. Her eyes stare off into the
abyss.

Paul sits on the bed. He touches her face.

PAUL
Sweetheart, come on! You got to eat something.

SIERRA
I'm not hungry.

Sierra closes her eyes.

He kisses her on the cheek.

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SMITH RESIDENCE-DAY

The phone rings.

Faith grabs the receiver and puts it to her ear.

FAITH
Hello?

PAUL (V.O.)
Hi.

FAITH
What's wrong?

PAUL (V.O.)
It's Sierra.

FAITH
What's going on?

PAUL (V.O.)
Listen --

CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM #566-HOTEL-NIGHT

Paul sits on the bed. He kisses her on the cheek.

PAUL
I got a surprise for you.

SIERRA
What?

PAUL
Never mind what. Come on, get up!

Sierra sits up.

Paul hands her a *bathing suit*.

CUT TO:

EXT. BEACH-DAY

Sierra sits in a *lounge chair*. She looks around.

SIERRA
Where's the surprise?

Paul smiles.

Nicholas steps towards her.

NICHOLAS
Right here!

Sierra smiles. She stands up.

SIERRA
How'd you --

NICHOLAS
Paul. He did all this.

SIERRA
Paul?

Paul stands up.

PAUL
I figured we can stay in L.A.

SIERRA
Really.

PAUL
I can commute.

Sierra kisses him on the cheek and hugs him.

SIERRA
Thank you.

Sierra steps back. She hugs Nicholas.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
Love you daddy.

Nicholas hugs her.

NICHOLAS

I love you too baby girl.

Sierra steps towards the lounge chair and sits.

SIERRA (V.O.)

That was the last time we could
celebrate one good time together.
Dad had a stroke shortly after.
Like dominoes falling, tragedy
after another. Faith had a head on
collision with a tree during that
stroke. Every little second
counted. I was completely on my
own. The last sane one standing.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-DAY

Sierra covers her face with the palm of her hand.

The sound of a bell ringing.

SIERRA

(sob)
(cry)

Paul grabs a hold of Sierra's shoulder.

Sierra jumps, feeling frightened for a second.

PAUL

Come on, baby.

SIERRA

Where are we going!

PAUL

Just come on!

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Paul walks her in. He sets her down.

PAUL

Lay down, okay.

SIERRA

Okay.

Paul kisses her on the lips.

Sierra lies down.

Paul covers her with a blanket.

PAUL
I'll be back to check on you, okay?

SIERRA
Okay.

Paul steps away.

Sierra closes her eyes.

SIERRA (V.O.)
I just went to sleep. No worries
like he told me. Sleep. For the
first time, I felt relieved.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-DAY

Sierra rubs her eyes.

Paul looks at her. He stands up and steps towards her.

PAUL
Good morning.

Sierra wraps her arms around him, kissing him.

SIERRA
Good morning.

Paul walks her to the table.

Sierra sits.

PAUL
Coffee?

SIERRA
Please.

Sierra looks around.

SIERRA (CONT'D)
So, you finally got dad to calm
down, huh?

Paul looks away.

Sierra stands up.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Paul?

Paul pours coffee into a mug.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Paul, answer me please!

Sierra rushes out of the dining room.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Sierra pushes the door open. She looks around and sees it's empty. No Nicholas. A complete stripped bed.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-CONTINUOUS

Sierra walks into the dining room.

SIERRA

Where is he?

PAUL

Calm down!

SIERRA

Where is he!

PAUL

He's in a rehabilitation center.

Sierra grabs her head in frustration.

PAUL (CONT'D)

You were upset babe.

SIERRA

I don't know how you do things, but we don't put a family member in a home!

Sierra steps out of the nursing home.

CUT TO:

INT. PATIENT ROOM-REHABILITATION CENTER-DAY

Resting comfortably. Nicholas looks at the television.

A knock on the door.

Sierra steps in.

SIERRA

Hi dad.

His eyes water with emotion.

Sierra sits.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, okay.

NICHOLAS

I -- love -- you --

Sierra leans her head close to his.

He kisses her on the cheek.

She kisses him on the forehead.

"Say It, Just Say It" by The Mowgli's plays.

CUT TO:

EXT. GARDEN-REHABILITATION CENTER-DAY

Right in front of Nicholas, Sierra stands.

SIERRA

Come on, I got you!

NICHOLAS'S POV:

A toddler Sierra stands.

BACK TO SCENE

Nicholas steps forward.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

You got this!

Nicholas takes three more steps. He stops.

SIERRA (CONT'D)

Yes!

She hugs him.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-DAY

Sierra stands in front of the mirror.

MONTAGE

-- Sierra three months pregnant.

-- Sierra six months pregnant.

-- Sierra nine months pregnant.

BACK TO SCENE

Sierra feels around her pregnant belly.

SIERRA

I can't wait to meet you.

SIERRA (V.O.)

Then you came into my life. Like
time slowed down to let me have
this moment.

CUT TO:

INT. DINING ROOM-MANSION-DAY

Her toddler son in her arms. Sierra walks him around the dining room.

SIERRA (V.O.)

One good man left but I gained
another.

She kisses the toddler.

SIERRA

Mommy loves you!

CUT TO:

EXT. BACK YARD-MANSION-DAY

Spinning the toddler around, Sierra drops back onto the grass, holding him up into the air. The toddler laughing. She hugs and kisses him.

Paul crouches down and takes a picture with a **camera**.

Sierra smiles for the camera with the toddler in her arms.

SIERRA
Cheese daddy!

CUT TO:

INT. OFFICE-MANSION-DAY

SUPER: EIGHT YEARS LATER

Her fingers hit the keys on the keyboard. Sierra's eyes on the laptop screen.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Here I am, a famous book author.
Living the dream.

CUT TO:

INT. BOOKSTORE-DAY

A line full of FANS are lined up at a table.

Sierra signs her name on each copy of her book, "Moon to Heaven".

FAN
Thanks.

SIERRA
No problem. Keep reading.

SIERRA (V.O.)
Moon To Heaven sold more than two million copies. Making it the most read book of the century.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY-DAY

Sierra stands in front of a tombstone.

SIERRA (V.O.)

If Rick hadn't spoken to me that night, I probably wouldn't be here. Especially with the success I've had.

SIERRA

Thank you.

Sierra closes her eyes. She steps away from the grave.

RICK (V.O.)

Thank you.

Sierra looks back at the grave. She smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. SIERRA'S SUBARU-DAY

Sunglasses on. Sierra switches on the radio. "I've Got Dreams To Remember" by Otis Redding plays.

SIERRA

I've Got Dreams To Remember. I've Got Dreams To Remember.

A boy sits in the back. His eyes on Sierra. 9-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS. A funny rapacious little boy.

Sierra looks in the **rear-view mirror**.

9-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

What is this song, mom?

SIERRA

I've Got Dreams To Remember by Otis Redding. Do you like it?

9-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS

It sounds kind of old.

SIERRA

It is. It's a good song though.

CUT TO:

EXT. ACADEMY SCHOOL-DAY

The car pulls into the driveway.

CUT TO:

INT/EXT. SIERRA'S SUBARU-CONTINUOUS

SIERRA
Do you have everything?

9-YEAR-OLD NICHOLAS
Yes.

9-Year-Old Nicholas kisses Sierra on the cheek.

SIERRA
Love you baby.

He opens the door and gets out of the car. The door slams shut. Sierra watches him walk away.

SIERRA (V.O.)
I could tell him to make good choices but who can tell a nine-year-old to do that. I'll save that saying for college.

CUT TO:

INT. BOOKSTORE-DAY

At a table, signing books for Fans. Sierra looks around the bookstore. The titles of her books in her eyesight.

SIERRA (V.O.)
In the end, you probably would ask me was it worth it. I would tell you every second!

CUT TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM-SIERRA'S CABIN-NIGHT

At the window, sitting in a *rocking chair*. An older Sierra rocks herself slowly.

On the floor of the cabin, a teen girl sits. STARLA, 14. A charismatic and loving girl.

STARLA
Can I ask you another question?

SIERRA
Sure.

STARLA
If you could do it all over again,
would you?

SIERRA
Yes.

Starla stands up. She steps towards Sierra.

STARLA
Can I help you to bed?

Sierra grabs a hold of Starla's hand.

Starla pulls her up.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-SIERRA'S CABIN-NIGHT

Sierra sits on the bed.

STARLA
Good night.

SIERRA
Good night sweetie.

Sierra kisses her on the cheek. She lifts her feet up to the bed.

Starla pulls the blanket over Sierra's feet.

STARLA
I love you.

SIERRA
I love you too.

Starla kisses her on the forehead. She steps out of the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN-SIERRA'S APARTMENT-NIGHT

Starla rinses off a plate.

A thud from the bedroom.

Starla steps out of the sink.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM-SIERRA'S CABIN-CONTINUOUS

Starla looks in the doorway.

Sierra's lifeless hand in her sight.

Starla looks away.

STARLA
(sob)

She steps away from the bedroom.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM-HIGH SCHOOL-DAY

TEACHER, early 30s.

TEACHER
Starla?

Starla stands up. She steps up in front of the CLASS.

STARLA
When she makes it to the Sierra
moon, where will I be? Will I be
here or there. I simply don't know.
Will you go, or will I? There's one
way. No more pain, no more
suffering. We'll be on the
mountains dancing with joy in our
hearts. Right under the purple
skies. See our silhouettes under
the moonlight. There, I'll be,
under the Sierra moon.

Starla sits.

CLASS
(applause)

Starla looks around at the Class.

STARLA
(sob)

Starla wipes her eyes.

CUT TO:

INT. DESERT-EVENING

At the top of the mountain, Starla sits. She lays a **bouquet** of **sunflowers** under a **small rock**.

STARLA

We made it.

Starla looks up at the **purple moon**. Her eyes in amazement at the sight.

Starla smiles.

FADE OUT:

THE END